

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE SARL NEWS SUNDAY 1 MAY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS. In the news today: QSL BUREAU OFFERS ADDITIONAL SERVICE REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS TO CHECK EMAIL ADDRESSES PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE MARCH 2005 VHF/UHF CONTEST FROM SEARCHING FOR ET TO THE LATEST AMATEUR SATELLITE TO FEATURE AT SENTECH AMSATCON 2005 INTECNET EXPLORES OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE AMATEUR RADIO TO THE YOUNG Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities. SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English, but please double check any all figures very well, the editor can readily correct text but cannot do so with most figures. You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news follows in detail: QSL BUREAU OFFERS ADDITIONAL SERVICE. Are you a member of the SARL and do you have more than one callsign? You can now register any number of callsigns linked to your master callsign free of charge. Your master callsign must be the callsign that is used for payment of your SARL membership fee. Are you the responsible person for a Special Event callsign? If you want the QSL Bureau to handle any cards for such a Special Event station you are required to do one of 2 things: 1) You can link this callsign to your own callsign. If you are a paid up member, these cards will be handled by the QSL Bureau with the weight of the DX outgoing cards being allocated to your personal weight limit of 3 kg (approximately 1 000 cards). You can purchase additional weight units in increments of 1 kg at a price of R100 per kg (approximately 330 cards). 2) Or you can register and pay for this callsign as an ordinary member of the SARL, in which case the cards will be handled as though this was a normal member. The benefit of registering such callsigns is that a) The callsigns will appear in the SARL Web callbook, usually within 2 weeks and b) the QSL Bureau will have instant access to the QSL detail relating to any of these callsigns. Failure to register these callsigns is likely to result in any cards for such callsigns not being processed by the QSL Bureau. The form to be used for registration is available on the SARL Website. Please also check the website for further details relating to recent changes made at the QSL Bureau. REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS TO CHECK EMAIL ADDRESSES The SARL office will shortly be sending out membership invoices for the 2005/2006 year. Invoices will be sent by email to all members for whom a valid email address is available. This saves the SARL a substantial amount in printing and postage costs. All

members are kindly requested to check that their email addresses on the SARL database are correct. This can be done by logging on to the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za and looking up your entry via the callbook. Corrections can be advised to Vee by email at admin@sarl.org.za or via fax to 011 675 2793.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE MARCH 2005 VHF/UHF CONTEST

The contest committee has released the provisional results of the first leg of the 2005 SARL VHF/UHF Contest, which was held over the weekend of 12 and 13 March. Any queries must be lodged with the contest committee within 14 days of publication, thereafter these results become final. Single Operator home station: 1st Lee, ZS5LEE, 533 496 points;

2nd Hal, ZS6WB, 217 351 points; 3rd Ken, ZS2BWB, 195 174 points; 4th Nasri, ZS1NAZ, 47 132 points; 5th Kevin, ZS6KEV, 41 387.

Single Operator field station: A check log received from Amaro, ZS6AVO. Multi Operator home station: 1st Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK, 41 647 points. Multi Operator field station: 1st East Rand ARC, ZS6ERB, 330 385,5 points; 2nd Sandton ARC, ZS6STN, 199 579 points. Single Operator limited station (Rover): 1st Derek, ZS5Y, 33 992 points;; 2nd Al, ZS2U, 20 898 points 3rd George, ZR2GLP, 16 666 points.

Divisional winners: Div 1 Nasri, ZS1NAZ; Div 2 Ken, ZS2BWB; Div 3 Nil;

Div 4 Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK; Div 5 Lee, ZS5LEE; Div 6 Hal, ZS6WB. Longest Distance per band: 50 MHz Lee, ZS5LEE, - Kjell, SM7BAE, 9 635 km; 70 MHz Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK, - Malcolm, ZR6MDK, 52 km; 144 MHz Lee, ZS5LEE, - Gary, KB8RQ, 13 730 km;

432 MHz Hal, ZS6WB, - Willem, ZS6WAB, 239 km. **HAMNET COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE** An official HAMNET communications exercise will be conducted over the weekend of 13 to 15 May 2005 in the Cape Town, Ceres, De Doorns and Worcester Area. Various role players will be invited to take part and make the exercise as realistic as possible. HF frequencies being used are: 3,650 MHz, 3,695 MHz and 7,070 MHz LSB for local command and control, while 10,130 MHz and 14,225 MHz USB will be used to provide a monitoring action for the Director, HAMNET, in Johannesburg. Above mentioned are all \pm QRM. VHF repeater frequencies to be used are 145,650 (Hawaquas), 145,675 (Jonaskop), 145,775 (Tygerberg), as well as 145,250 and 145,300MHz simplex. Hams are welcome to monitor, but requested to keep the frequencies clear to enable speedy message handling. An orientation course in disaster related communications starts on 13 May 2005 at 18:30 SAT, with the communications exercise starting the next day where students will put theory into practice. The main controlling station will be located at Rawsonville, just outside the intended disaster area. **FROM SEARCHING FOR ET TO THE LATEST AMATEUR SATELLITE TO FEATURE AT SENTECH AMSATCON 2005** The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence is by no means something of the past; radio amateurs and space enthusiasts have taken over where governments have left off. The subject is one of many to be discussed at the Sentech AMSATCON

2005 to be held on Saturday 14 May at the National Amateur Radio Centre. Entitled "Project Argus -join the search for detecting microwave radiation from technologically advanced civilizations out to a distance of several hundred light years", will be discussed by Prof. Alex Antonites of the University of Pretoria and the South African representative of the SETI League, an organisation spearheading the research. The conference is celebrating the Southern African Amateur Radio Satellite Association's 25th anniversary. "The sponsorship we have received from Sentech has enabled us to assemble an array of interesting speakers from around South Africa," SA AMSAT President Hans van de Groenendaal said. Our aim was to cover a wide range of topics which will not only be of interest to radio amateurs but touch a wide spectrum of people who are interested in making an aspect of science their hobby. The other objective was to make it affordable and that is why the sponsorship became so important." The programme covers topics such as how to get started on satellite communications, designing an automatic antenna tracker and communication by reflecting signals off the moon. The SA Rocketry Association will present a paper on amateur rocketry, another interesting activity available to young and old. Some of the latest communication technologies such as 3G and Vsat communication will also be reviewed. A full programme as well as registration details can be found on www.amsatsa.org.za or by sending fax or email details to saamsat@intekom.co.za. There is an early bird registration fee for reservations made before 7 May. INTECNET EXPLORES OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE AMATEUR RADIO TO THE YOUNG At last Sunday's Intecnet with Communications Guru Clive Simpkins, the discussion centred mainly around how to promote amateur radio to the youth and how to communicate the benefits of amateur radio to them. Some interesting ideas came out of the discussion, which are being explored. The first major opportunity will be on Youth Day, 16th June. How can we make youth day different? Your ideas are invited. Drop an email to armi@sarl.org.za, or call 088 100 3400 and record your comments and ideas. Calls are charged at local Telkom call rates. The question of how to attract radio amateurs who are not members of the SARL was also discussed. One of the participants said that for him it is a question of insurance. "Where can I get a cheap policy that protects my investment in equipment? The SARL protects our frequencies, keeps close contact with ICASA and DOC to see that the interest of amateur radio is always top of mind. For me that's more than enough reason, the rest like weekly flow of information, on the air activity, the QSL Bureau and many more are an additional bonus", he said. The next President's net and Intecnet will be held on Sunday 29 May 2005. EAST RAND FOX HUNT 21 MAY Thanks to a donation by OM Doepie, ZS6BDD, the prizes for the East Rand Fox Hunt have been increased. Not only will a day of hunting be fun, it will also be rewarding. For more information visit the SARL Webpage. Bookings can be done with Johanna Harris at 011-814-2121. PROPAGATION REPORT Propagation conditions were very weak during the past week. The bands naturally close earlier in the evening due to the onset of Winter, but fortunately with far less noise than during the Summer. Locally the 20 m band remains reasonable during the day. The sunspot number did in

fact increase, as was expected. On Thursday it was 42,9 as against last week's 19,0. There is a little bit of hope as far as 30 April and 1 May goes and active periods are expected to follow stormy conditions on the sun - the opposite may also be true. DIARY OF EVENTS Week starting 8 May - Look out for the special APRS hot air balloon station, ZS6HOT; 13-15 May- Hamnet Communication Exercise in Western Cape; 14 May - AMSATCON 2005; 19 May - Radio Amateur Examination; 21 May - East Rand Fox hunt; 29 May - President's net and INTECHNET; 31 May - closing date for part 2 of the 2005 Construction Competition. The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 810, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI. This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts. You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly. Goodbye everyone. /EX